



West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 27, 2013, 1900 CDT

- On April 27, 2013, evacuees of the damaged neighborhood (~150 homes) were allowed to return to their residence to assess the damage and remove personal property from their homes. The City of West and the incident management team created a re-entry plan that included registration of any vehicle entering the neighborhood and proof of residency in the neighborhood. Support agencies including mental health professionals, Texas Task Force 1, law enforcement and volunteer groups assisted the evacuees. All activities will cease at 1900 April 27, 2013 and resume at 0700 on April 28, 2013.

- On April 27, 2013 EPA continued daytime air monitoring activities with three stationary sites to the west and north of the facility. The northern monitoring site was added to provide a downwind site during south winds. The site is approximately one half mile north of the fertilizer facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- On April 27, 2013, a second debris coordination meeting was held at 1000 with EPA, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Forest Service (TFS), FEMA, TCEQ and the McClennan County Emergency Manager (MCEM) representing the City of West. FEMA facilitated the meeting and presented a two page best management practices document that addressed debris management with and without public assistance. The TCEQ provided a debris management document that they have utilized in past disasters. FEMA with concurrence of the MCEM has requested that EPA, TCEQ, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) continue to assist the City of West as subject matter experts to provide technical assistance as the debris management process moves forward. The next debris coordination meeting will be held at 1300 on April 29, 2013 with all of the above participants.
- The public drinking water system is still being evaluated throughout the City of West. Two drinking water distribution tanks, valves and equipment associated with distribution system were determined to be damaged during the explosion today. The TCEQ, State of Texas Public Works Response Team and City of West personnel will continue assessing the system on April 28, 2013. A boiled water notice remains in effect.
- EPA is compiling air monitoring data for ammonia to be uploaded onto the TCEQ website. EPA Toxicologist will assess results before submitting to TCEQ.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

Personnel	EPA OSC In Field	EPA RSC in Field	R6 Contractor In Field	National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents	EPA In REOC	Contractor In REOC	Total
Total	1	1	4	2	5	0	13

*Current as of 1900hrs 4/27. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.